

at the feet of him whom he concluded was to be his executioner. Do not imagine, said Jacob to him, that my master has any design upon your life; and it would be still weaker in you to imagine that he could have so far mistaken me as to chuse me for the instrument of your death. It is true, your high birth, and your pretensions, give him uneasiness: you must swear to me by the soul of the prophet, and by that of the respectable Ali, from whom you are descended, that you will never think of dethroning Mahadi, nor of forming any party against him.

Mehemet, happy to come off so easily, took the oath required of him. I must exact another condition of you, added Jacob, that you never appear again at Bagdad. But as you must have something to support you, my masters makes you a present of this sum. He then gave him the twenty thousand pieces of gold, which he had received.

The manner in which he had conducted this affair was soon known to the Califf, for the fair slave so generously given up to him, was only a spy set over his actions by the jealous Mahadi. The exasperated Califf sent for the pretended traitor: How have you acquitted yourself, said he to him in a rage, of the commission with which I charged you?— Jacob was going to answer him with the fidelity of a subject and frankness of a friend.

But

But the Prince interrupted him: thou hast let my victim escape!— have, replied Jacob. It was my duty to save you from the commission of a crime which you were making me the accomplice of, not to be the tool of your suspicion and jealousy. Providence made you our sovereign; protect the weak; and you have more right than the meanest of your subjects, to take the life of any man whose province to punish the guilty, is to shed the blood of the innocent.

The Prince, struck with the conduct of Jacob, and the force of his words, turned again into favour.

I only thought you, said he, an ambitious courtier; I now find you a true friend, a generous and magnanimous man; you preferred the protection of innocence to your interest, and you have told me salutarily at the hazard of your life. Your honest declaration hath illuminated my mind; henceforth I will circumscribe my unlimited power by the laws of conscience and of reason; jealousy or resentment shall never invade the unalienable rights of mankind; not, however, hesitate to inflict a severe punishment upon those who shall fortify me to misrepresent you to me. I have had a convincing proof of your disinterestedness.

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